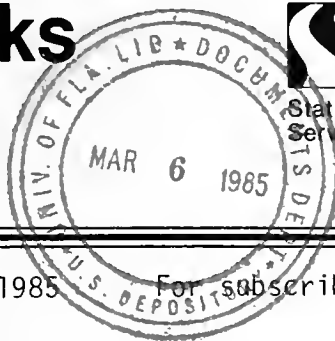


Potato Stocks



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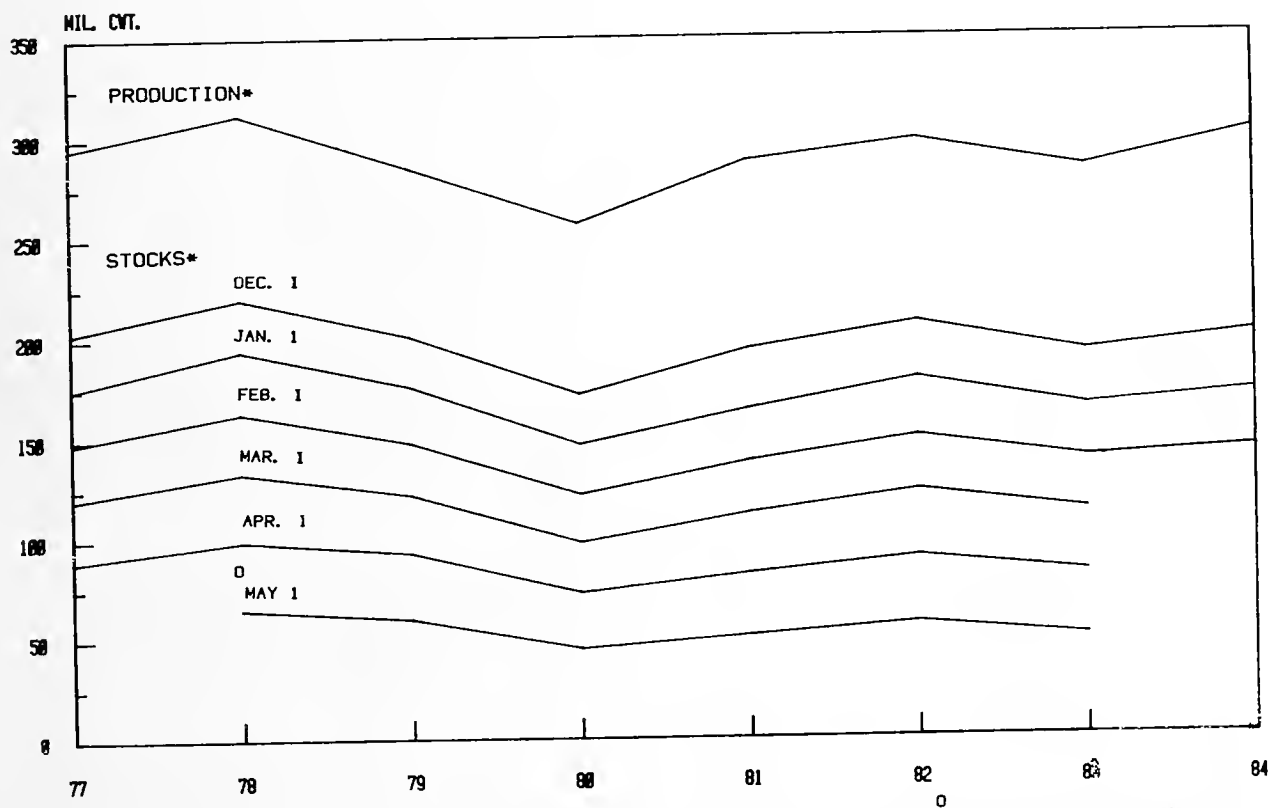
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POTATO STOCKS UP 3 PERCENT

Potato stocks were estimated at 143 million cwt (6.49 million metric tons) on February 1, 1985 in the 15 major storage States. This is up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent short of two years ago. Variety data from the 11 objective yield States shows 75 percent russets, 22 percent whites and 3 percent reds in storage. The storage total represented 47 percent of fall production this year compared with 49 percent on hand a year ago at this time. (Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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* should be directed to Crop Reporting Board Publications, Room 5829 - *
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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
* purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
* losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
* potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 per- *
* cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
* use account for the remaining 10 percent. *
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TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	: PRODUCTION:	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
	:	1,000 CWT					
1974	:	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217
1975	:	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970
1976	:	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130
1977	:	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680
1978	:	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250 64,830
1979	:	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550 59,535
1980	:	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660 44,546
1981	:	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270 50,760
1982	:	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105 57,305
1983	:	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740 50,365
1984	:	302,495	201,335	172,860	142,990		

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1983 AND 1984 CROPS

[illegible]

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1984 AND
FEBRUARY 1, 1985

	:	CROP OF 1983			:	CROP OF 1984		
STATE	:	:	TOTAL	:	:	TOTAL	:	FEB 1
	:	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS	:	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS	:	STOCKS
	:	:	FEB 1,	:	:	FEB 1,	:	AS % OF
	:	:	1984	:	:	1985	:	PRODUCTION
	:	:		:	:		:	
	:	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	:	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	:	
CALIF	:	7,790	3,500	45	7,280	3,000	41	
COLO	:	13,950	7,100	51	17,225	8,900	52	
IDAHO	:	85,990	48,000	56	86,600	47,500	55	
MAINE	:	22,560	13,500	60	21,360	12,500	59	
MICH	:	9,840	4,400	45	12,540	5,000	40	
MINN	:	10,313	6,900	67	13,775	8,500	62	
MONT	:	1,800	1,650	92	1,924	1,790	93	
NEBR	:	2,025	980	48	2,240	1,250	56	
N Y - L I	:	4,075	800	20	3,726	500	13	
- UPSTATE	:	5,635	1,900	34	6,630	1,700	26	
N DAK	:	20,480	10,300	50	20,615	10,700	52	
OHIO	:	1,886	270	14	2,465	280	11	
OREG	:	20,710	9,600	46	22,680	11,000	49	
PA	:	4,300	1,700	40	5,160	2,370	46	
WASH	:	54,080	22,000	41	56,925	20,800	37	
WIS	:	18,910	6,300	33	21,350	7,200	34	
	:							
15 STATE TOTAL	:	284,344	138,900	49	302,495	142,990	47	

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 143 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.2 percent or approximately 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.5 percent or approximately 7.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1975-84) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.08 million cwt, ranging from 0.39 million to 6.17 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1985, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	10		1/90	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		69	31	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	14	53	33	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	16	64	20	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	6	36	58	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	22	75	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

The three Eastern States had 17.1 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1985 down 5 percent from last year, and 22 percent below 1983. Maine stocks at 12.5 million cwt were down 7 percent; New York with 2.20 million cwt was down 19 percent from last year, and Pennsylvania at 2.37 million cwt was up 39 percent.

Stocks in the six Central States totaled 32.9 million cwt on February 1, 1985, up 13 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks at 10.7 million cwt gained 4 percent from last year. Minnesota storage at 8.50 million cwt was up 23 percent. Michigan and Wisconsin showed increases of 14 percent.

The six Western States had 93.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage, an increase of 1 percent from last February, but 5 percent less than two years ago. Idaho stocks totaling 47.5 million cwt were down 1 percent; while Washington's 20.8 million cwt storage was off 5 percent from last year. Oregon at 11.0 million cwt was up 15 percent. Colorado with stocks of 8.90 million cwt was up 25 percent; while California storages of 3.00 million cwt were off 14 percent.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 States from harvest to February 1 this year totaled 160 million cwt, a gain of 10 percent over last year and 8 percent above the same period two years ago. Shrinkage and losses were estimated at 21.5 million cwt, 20 percent ahead of last year's 17.9 million cwt.

Processing in the 8 major processing States to February 1 totaled 70.8 million cwt, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Processing during January hit 12.0 million cwt, up 15 percent from last January.

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